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 Burgess Falls State Natural Area, 19 miles
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 Standing Stone State Park, 23 miles

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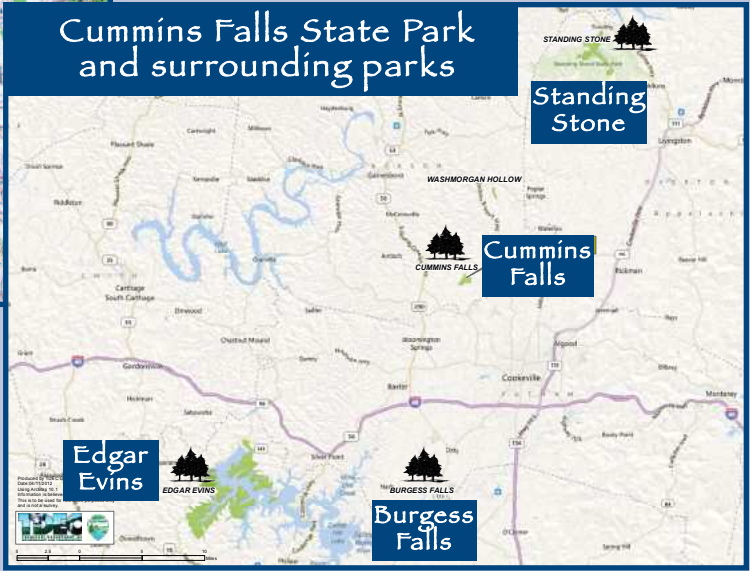


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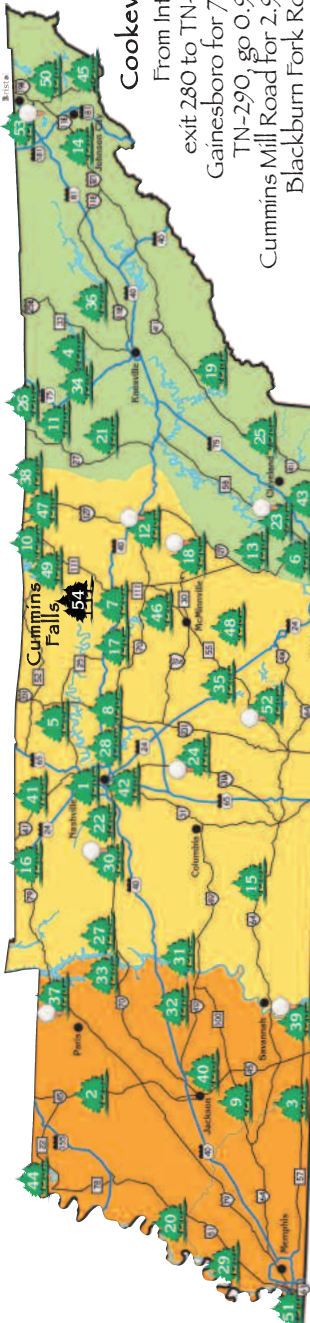


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1225 Cummins Mill Road, Cookeville, TN 38501.


From Interstate 40, take exit 280 to TN-56 north toward Gainesboro for 7.7 miles. Right on TN-290, go 0.9 miles. Left onto Cummins Mill Road for 2.9 miles. Left onto Blackburn Fork Road for 0.2 miles.



Hours of Operation:
 The Park is a day-use park and is open from 8:00 a.m. until sunset, year-round.

For Further Information and Reservations Contact:
 Burgess Falls State Natural Area / 4000 Burgess Falls Avenue / Sparta, TN 38583-8456 (931) 432-5312

Or Contact:
 Tennessee State Parks / 401 Church St., 7th Floor / Nashville, TN 37243
 Phone (888) 867-2757 / www.tnstateparks.com/CumminsFalls







The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action. Contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation EEO/AA coordinator at (888) 867-2757 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 532-0099 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service at (800) 848-0298.

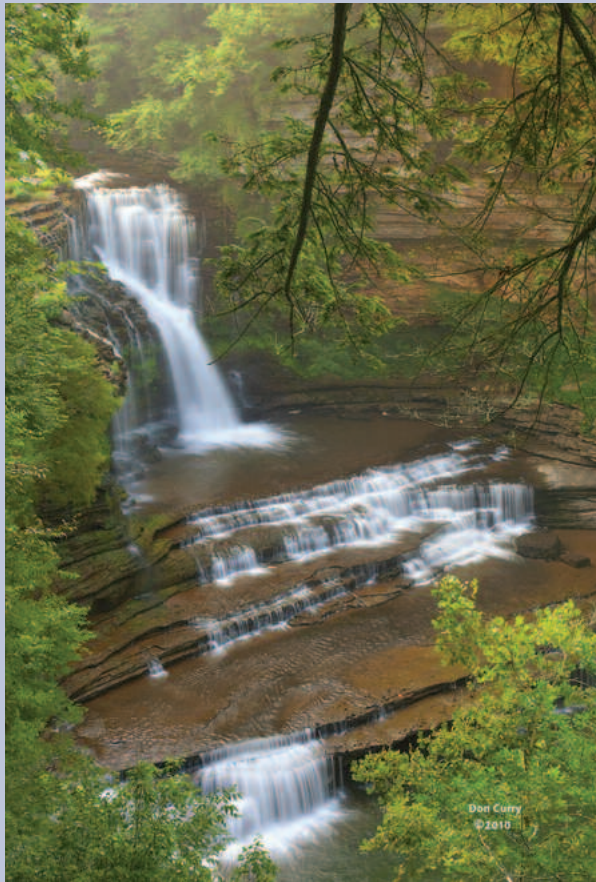
TENNESSEE STATE PARKS

CUMMINS FALLS

STATE PARK







Cummins Falls State Park

Cummins Falls State Park is a 211 acre park located nine miles north of Cookeville on the Blackburn Fork State Scenic River. In the rolling hills of Jackson County near where Putnam and Jackson counties meet, the stream gives way to a 75 foot drop.

Accolades

It is the eighth largest waterfall in Tennessee in volume of water, and was named one of the top 10 best swimming holes in the United States in the "America's Best Swimming Holes" article in Travel and Leisure magazine. The article reads

"It's a hard-earned scramble to the bottom that involves hiking to the overlook, wading across the ankle-deep stream, climbing up to the ridge, and using a rope guide to walk yourself down to the water. This is not a swimming hole for lightweights. Translation: expect a younger crowd. But if you're agile (and sure-footed), the descent into the cavernous pool is worth the effort."

Alice Bruneau, June 2010.

History

It is known that buffalo wallowed in the river in a shallow basin about a quarter-mile east of the falls. Indians used this area to kill buffalo as they needed as indicated by the numerous arrowheads found at the site. In the 1790s, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, Sergeant Blackburn, for whom the Blackburn Fork State Scenic River is named, was awarded this land in lieu of a pension. This land was acquired by John Cummins in about 1825 on which he built the first of two water driven mills. Because of a growing clientele, a second and larger mill was built in 1845 about a half mile or so before the falls. Local area residents came to the mill and the falls for commerce and recreation. The mill was washed away in a great flood of 1928, but by then cars and paved highways had made the trek to Cummins Falls more of a discretionary trip than a necessary one. The mill was not rebuilt but this land stayed in the Cummins family for more than 180 years until a recent effort by the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation brought private individuals and public institutions together to purchase the land for resale to the State.

Water, Woods and Wildlife

This park is located in the Cordell Hull Watershed. The forest that borders the river includes a variety of oaks, beech, buckeye, sycamore and hemlock. Woodland plants include October's lady tresses, star chickweed, liverleaf and Allegheny spurge. The property's long forested streamside protects turkey, quail, eagles and other birds; soft-shell and other turtles; fox, mink, and myriad insects including damselflies and dragonflies. The river is too shallow for boating. However, with cooperative agreement from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, fishing for bluegill and bass along the riverbank will be permitted, with a Tennessee fishing license.

Area Events

Upper Cumberland Regional Fair, Cookeville, July-August
Annual Gainesboro Poke Sallet Festival.

- Mothers Day Weekend

Annual Granville's Heritage Day

- Memorial Day weekend

First Saturday Hikes to Cummins Falls

Old Cummins Mill circa 1845

